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MAYOR PEREZ APPLAUDS EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT HERNAN LAFONTAINE

(November 17, 2005)--- Mayor Eddie Perez is pleased to congratulate Council President Hernan LaFontaine on his recent election as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Center for Applied Linguistics (C.A.L.) based in Washington D.C. Mr. LaFontaine has served two previous terms on C.A.L.'s Board of Trustees and most recently served as Vice Chair of the Board.

Mayor Perez says, "Council President LaFontaine has a distinguished career in education and bilingual education. This most recent honor is the latest example of his leadership and his dedication to the empowerment of our children."

Dr. Donna Christian, President of C.A.L. describes the Center as a private non-profit organization working to improve communications through better understanding of language and culture. The organization has earned a national and international reputation for its contributions to the fields of bilingual education, English as a second language, foreign language education, dialect studies, literacy education, language policy refugee orientation and the education of linguistically and culturally diverse adults and children.

Council President LaFontaine says, "I consider C.A.L. to be the premier organization in the nation dealing with language and language issues and I am honored to have this opportunity to provide my support by serving as Chairman of the Board of Trustees."

During his long career in education, Professor LaFontaine was Superintendent of Schools in Hartford in the 1980's and is also Professor Emeritus of Southern Connecticut State University, where he was on the faculty in the Graduate School of Education. He established the first bilingual school in the New York City Public School system and went on to head New York City's first Office of Bilingual Education, serving more than 75,000 students. During this time, he was co-founder of the National Association for Bilingual Education and the New York State Association for Bilingual Education.